

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Testimony in <u>SUPPORT</u> of House Bill 5258: An Act Concerning Moving Over When Approaching Certain Emergency Vehicles. Transportation Committee March 7, 2022

Co-Chairs Haskell and Lemar, Vice Chairs Cassano and Simms, Ranking Members Somers and Carney, and Distinguished Members of the Transportation Committee:

I would like to thank the Committee for raising House Bill 5258, An Act Concerning Moving Over When Approaching Certain Emergency Vehicles.

I requested this bill in response to the concerns of a constituent whom, as an active member of a Volunteer Fire Department, provides fire police services in emergency zones. Its intent, and language as it is written, is to extend the "move over law" of our limited access highways to also apply to other state and local roads.

If codified into law, this bill will provide a much-needed safety improvement for Connecticut's over 56,000 first responders—most of which are volunteers—that regularly put themselves in harm's way to assist others in distress. You will hear some of their pleas today, as they cite their experiences, their concerns, and the successes of similar legislation elsewhere. These selfless, remarkable people routinely endanger themselves to help others. The very least that we can do is to make it safer for them to do so.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in <u>SUPPORT</u> of House Bill 5258, and I strongly urge the Transportation Committee to advance such important legislation.